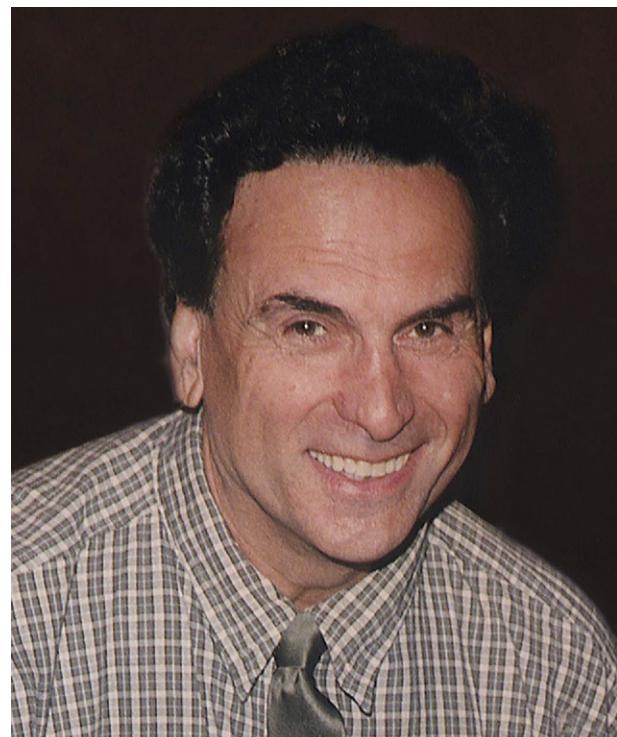


## In Memory of Sava V. Perović (1937-2010)

Sava V. Perović was born February 21, 1937, and passed away April 4, 2010, at the age of 73 years. He completed his medical studies, including his urology residency, at Belgrade University in Belgrade, Serbia. He continued his professional education at numerous universities worldwide, but the greatest impact was his 1-year residency at the University in Mainz, Germany, in 1980 working with Professor Rudolf Hohenfellner. After his return to his home country, he formed the Section for Pediatric Urology at the University Children's Hospital in Belgrade, a program that would become a nursery for young urologists. He would serve as the Professor of Surgery and Urology and the Department head of this program from 1991 until his death. This program created an environment where his experience and skill could be passed on, and then introduced globally, by his many students. Dr. Perović's program became not only a center for advanced adult and pediatric reconstruction but also a point of introduction for renal transplantation, transsexual surgery, and laparoscopic urology in Serbia.

Dr. Perović is best known as a urological reconstruction expert; he came to this field by a path that is quite usual in Serbia, although it is unusual in the rest of the world. He first trained as a pediatric general surgeon. In Serbia, this specialty takes care of all surgical needs of children, including urology. Dr. Perović then went on to be independently trained and certified in urology. This training, basically starting in pediatric urology (which is largely reconstructive) blossomed into a robust adult and pediatric reconstructive kingdom that "rewrote the book" on adult genital reconstruction. Dr. Perović would go on to write definitive manuscripts on the surgical treatment of intersex, complete penile disassembly for epispadias, Peyronie's disease, adult hypospadias, buried penis, and metadoidioplasty, a form of female to male sex reassignment surgery often preferred by patients because it is less invasive than some other forms. His surgical skill and knowledge were impressive to behold. It was not uncommon to see Dr. Perović create a fasciocutaneous flap in the short time that it takes most of us to merely think about how such a flap might best be constructed.

In his long and very fruitful career, Sava Perović achieved his greatest results in the field of urogenital reconstructive surgery, as a pioneer and perhaps the only person in the world to have encompassed treatment of all anomalies of the genital system regardless of gender or age. Dr. Perović was the author of 321 research and clinical articles and 47 book chapters, and was the editor



Sava V. Perović

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or coeditor of 8 textbooks. He was a member of numerous urological and surgical associations, and an honorary member of the German, Polish, Hungarian, and Romanian Urological Societies, in recognition of his contribution to urology and to the development of their programs and training of their doctors. He received numerous research awards and honors, including awards given by the European Association of Urology, German Urological Association, and the European Society for Sexual Medicine.

Dr. Perović dedicated most of his professional work to the break-through and introduction of those concepts born or perfected in his small Serbian hospital. His papers often presented new surgical approaches or techniques that took their place in the armamentariums of surgical techniques in clinics all over the world. He was a tireless and beloved ambassador for his country, which was previously unlisted on the map of the contemporary world. He was Manager of the Belgrade Training School, which was created to educate colleagues from around the world. In 2004-2005, in 12 weeks of operations and more than 150 surgical procedures, he trained colleagues from Seoul

to Vancouver, from Cape Town to São Paolo, selflessly sharing his experience and showing them the tricks and the pitfalls of what he believed to be the most creative of trades.

It was notable to see the reactions of colleagues at the meetings concerning Dr. Perović's new principle of penile disassembly. His great experience in sex reassignment surgery led him to become acquainted with the surgical anatomy of the penis to the finest of details, making him realize that a penis can be completely disassembled, each deformity corrected separately, and then reassembled into a functional organ. In numerous lectures, Dr. Perović opened with his introductory slides in which the "disassembled" penis appears on the screen, which would at first cause a wave of gasps in astonishment. As years went on, these gasps evolved into sounds of respect and recognition.

He was special man, yet approachable. He achieved greatly, yet remained modest. Most of all, Sava Perović loved and cherished his family. He often spoke lovingly of

his wife Jolanta and of his daughters Jovana and Ivana. Spending quality time with them was always a priority. When his only grandchild, Tara, was born, he often spoke often about how wonderful it was to be her grandfather.

The whole urological world knew who Sava Perović was. Somewhere at the crossing between American and European urological doctrine, along the road between operating room and congress hall, he single-handedly transformed the field of reconstructive urology. We believe that his work remains engraved deep in our hearts, thoughts, and words. The energy that he invested in his work was immense, as was his aspiration to transfer his experiences to masses of hard-working, talented individuals. We both will miss him. Urology will miss him.

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